

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-14

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: JORDAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: 75 AMMAN 10079 (NOTAL), MAP 0198 (20 JAN 1432Z)

1. BECAUSE OF A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE SENDING OF REFTEL WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD ADOPT A NEW APPROACH AND TIME SCHEDULE TO DEVELOPING COMPREHENSIVE JORDANIAN PLANS FOR THEIR ARMY AND AIR FORCE OVER NEXT FEW YEARS.

2. ONE PROBLEM IS THAT JORDANIANS HAVE TAKEN INITIATIVE IN POINT OUR NUMEROUS SHORTCOMINGS IN OUR OWN PROGRAMS CONCURRENT WITH JUST COMPLETED VISIT OF USDEPCINCEUR. FURTHER, JORDANIANS HAVE ALWAYS SEEN EXERCISE OF THIS TYPE IN PART AS AN EFFORT BY US TO INSTALL LIMITATIONS AND DEVELOP CONTROLS OVER THEIR OWN PLANS. IF WE NOW PROCEED AS WE ORIGINALLY PROPOSED, WE BELIEVE THIS FEELING IS LIKELY TO BE REKINDLED IN A WAY WHICH WILL PRODUCE AN UNHELPFUL JORDANIAN REACTION BOTH POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY. FINALLY TIMING FOR ANY SUCH STUDY IS TOO SHORT TO BE PRODUCTIVE AND THE IMMEDIATE INTRODUCTION OF A US TEAM TO PURSUE STUDY ON SHORT NOTICE WILL ONLY RAISE OLD PROBLEMS OF US MOTIVES AND OBJECTIVES.

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3. UPON REVIEW, I BELIEVE OUR BEST APPROACH WOULD BE TO CONTINUE TO PLANT SEEDS OF THIS IDEA IN MINDS OF LTGEN BEN SHAKER AND AIR FORCE CHIEF ABOUD. THEIR STAFF OFFICERS CAN ALSO BE APPROACHED. HOPE IS THAT IDEA WILL BECOME THEIR OWN AND BE DEVELOPED AS THEIR MAJOR AGENDA ITEM FOR PRESENTATION AT JMC WHICH, AS DATT/MAP SEPTTEL MAKES CLEAR, BEN SHAKER WOULD LIKE TO HOLD ON OR ABOUT 10 MARCH. THERE ARE SEVERAL GOOD REASONS WHY BEN SHAKER HIMSELF SHOULD WANT THE STUDY AND MANY BENEFITS FOR JORDAN, INCLUDING TESTING OUT HIS NEW STAFF, ORGANIZING HIS THINKING FOR THE YEAR AHEAD, AND AS A BRIEFING AID FOR KING WHEN QUESTIONS OF NEW WEAPONS VERSUS MANPOWER ARISE, AS THEY CONSTANTLY DO.

4. US PARTICIPATION WOULD NOT BE MENTIONED, BUT COULD BE TIMED TO BE WORKED IN BY US UNILATERALLY AT JMC AFTER JORDANIAN PRESENTATION AND AS A FOLLOW UP. WE WOULD THEN SUGGEST THAT AT APPROPRIATE TIME DURING JMC MEETINGS, PERHAPS UPON CONCLUSION OF JAF PRESENTATION, US CHAIRMAN SUGGEST A US TEAM COMING TO JORDAN, POSSIBLY ABOUT MID-APRIL TO WORK WITH JAF IN REFINING THE STUDY AND SPECIFICALLY TO ADDRESS MANPOWER/WEAPONRY ABSORPTION CAPABILITIES OVER NEXT TWO-THREE YEARS. IF IT IS SUGGESTED THAT COL. GRANGER COULD HEAD THE TEAM, IT WOULD MINIMIZE ORIENTATION NEEDS AND WOULD HAVE MAXIMUM SELLABILITY TO LTGEN BEN SHAKER AND THE JORDANIANS.

5. WE TRUST THE GENERAL APPROACH OUTLINED ABOVE IS SATISFACTORY TO STATE AND DOD AND WILL PROCEED ACCORDINGLY UNLESS YOU DIRECT OTHERWISE. IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO HAVE FROM YOU SHORTLY SOME SORT OF A GENERAL REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR JMC MEETING WHICH WE CAN USE WITH JAF AT TIME OF OUR OWN CHOICE.
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